



History Topic: What was Benin like at its peak?

Year: 5 **Term:** Spring 1

Key Knowledge/Content:

- **Chronological understanding-** Create a timeline showing the key events during the Benin civilisation.
- **Historical enquiry-** Choose sources of evidence to answer questions about Benin.
- **Interpretations of the past-** Consider whether sources from Benin are reliable, thinking about the role of religion.
- **Knowledge and understanding-** Make links within the Benin civilisation between religion, art and leadership.
- **Compare and contrast-** Compare the monarchy of Benin to Britain.

Links to:

Prior learning:

To learn about different types of monarchy including the British monarchy and the Indus Valley civilisation.

Future learning:

To look at Benin's decline and eventual fall, including the movement of artefacts into museums around the world.

Key vocabulary with definition:

Prior vocabulary:

- CE- Common Era, after the year 0.
- BCE- Before Common Era.
- Empire- Lots of countries or states ruled over by one monarch or country.
- Civilisation- A human society made up of different cities and cultures.
- Trade- Exchanging of goods or materials.

New vocabulary:

- Oba- King or chief in the Benin kingdom.
- Animism- A religion followed in Benin that focused on a belief in the afterlife and animals.
- Voodoo- The belief that non-human objects have spirits or souls.
- Civil War- A war between people who live in the same country.
- Colonisation- When invaders take over control of a country by force and live among the people.
- Nigeria- A country in Africa.
- Brass- Made from copper and zinc ores to produce fine metalwork.
- Sacrifice- An offering to the gods, often food or animals

By the end of this unit

All children can: **describe** the main features of the Benin kingdom, including the role of Oba as leader and the use of animals in Benin artwork, and **look at** different sources and artefacts.

Most children can: **explain** the importance of religion in the Benin kingdom and **identify** some of the key events during the Benin kingdom.

Some children can: **understand and explore** the importance of hierarchy and craftsmanship in the Benin kingdom, making comparisons to other monarchies and civilisations.

Background understanding for teachers and parents:

This unit will be focus on the height of the Benin kingdom, including the use of bronze in artefacts and the role of the Oba as leaders in the kingdom. Children will learn where the location of the Benin kingdom was and how it fits into our own chronological timeline.

Curriculum Driver (one):

Knowledge of the World

Evidence outcome:

Look at how the Benin Empire formed in present-day Nigeria and how it fits into our own timeline.